

REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

This Amendment B is being filed within two months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on July 16, 2007. Accordingly, a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time is made a part of the electronic filing hereof.

By this Amendment B, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 15-17 and 19 remain pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended to include the subject matter of now canceled corresponding dependent claims 5, 14 and 20.

Amendment and/or cancellation of claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowable subject presented in claims 5 and 6.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-13, 15 and 17-19 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,935,876 to Massie.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5, 14 and 20, respectively, to overcome Massie. The Examiner noted that the claims 5 and 6 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 1 now recites the subject matter of claim 5. Claims 14 and 20 also recite

the same allowable subject matter as claim 5; accordingly, independent claims 11 and 17 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 14 and 20, respectively.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10, 14, 16 and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Massie as applied to claims 1, 11 and 17 and further in view of U.S. Patent no. 4,756,706 to Kerns. Based on the previous discussions, neither Massie nor Kerns, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Reconsideration is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that in view of the discussion, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END5070/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

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